

# the TRANSFORMER

## THE FUTURE IS NOW!

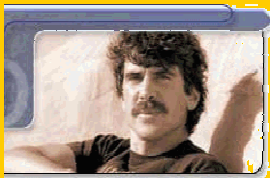
...AT THE 2008 AVP-USA ANNUAL GATHERING  
MAY 22- MAY 26  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON



**Derrick Jensen**  
Saturday Plenary

"If we wish to stop the atrocities, we need merely to step away from the isolation. There is a whole world waiting for us, ready to welcome us home."

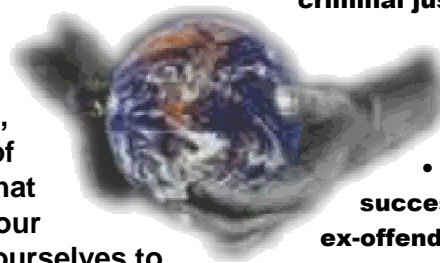
An author and environmental activist, Derrick focuses on the inherent violence of civilization, especially toward the environment. He will deal with a culture that is out of harmony with its land base, people that are disempowered, violence in prisons and against gays and lesbians, the propaganda of all media, having hope vs. action, how to find your passion and defend it to the death, and the problem with any religion that is propagated beyond its geographic birthplace.



**Dana Lyons**  
Saturday Evening

This Bellingham singer and songwriter was raised Quaker and graduated from Swarthmore. In his life as an activist, he goes where the action is and inevitably writes a song about the experience. He tells incredible stories of his adventures that are inspiring and informative and funny and moving, all at the same time. Here are some of his songs: *Ride the lawn* (I fought the lawn & the lawn won); *I Saw His Body* (my train cut off the legs of a protester); *The Company's Been Good to Me* (I'm dying but...); *The Tree* (about an old growth tree); *Cows with Guns* (rake my hay); *Just Beyond the Wall* (I see barbed wire everywhere).

We face a changing and increasingly violent future on many levels. We in AVP have answers to the challenges, and yet also questions. Almost a decade into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it's time to deepen our non-violent responses, and foster those of our neighbors. What can we do within our world and within ourselves to face the future that's coming; is already here? The future is now. Join us as we:



- Listen to the voice of our troubled planet
- Hear the pain of the oppressed
- Find alternatives to a failed criminal justice system
- Break the barriers between victims and perpetrators
- Offer hope and success strategies to ex-offenders in a new life
- Shape the evolution of AVP in a world of change
- Nourish and challenge ourselves for the future

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

**Jakada Imani, Executive Director**  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Oakland CA  
Friday Evening



Jakada Imani lives for the future – the future of our cities and the future of the marginalized people that live within them. He witnessed firsthand the impact of prison after watching his father and uncles loop through the penal system. "I saw what it did to my family," says Imani, now 35, "and I saw what the government's response was to it. Not much." Today, he directs the Center's Books Not Bars campaign, on a mission to liberate all youth offenders. He feels that the concept of incarceration itself is flawed: "This idea that we can throw things away, that we live on a disposable planet, that people made a mistake – and it's unrecoverable – is just flawed."

The Ella Baker Center has been successful in their Green Collar Jobs campaign, a bold national initiative, striving to prepare com-

munities for the future. A new, multi-billion-dollar economic sector is emerging, bringing new opportunities in clean technology and energy, green construction, and urban agriculture. The campaign seeks to ensure that this green economy is strong enough to lift people out of poverty. It addresses both the climate crisis and the poverty crisis by investing in green-collar job training. Green Collar Jobs prioritizes providing jobs to those who are usually considered "hard to employ": at-risk youth, the unemployed, and the formerly incarcerated. With support from former President Bill Clinton & Nancy Pelosi, the US House passed the Green Jobs Act of 2007 (part of the energy bill), authorizing \$125 million for the effort to provide advocacy, community education, and technical assistance.



The Firs Conference Center is a 7-acre campus among towering fir and cedar trees, just 2 blocks from Lake Whatcom, with a private beach, just outside Bellingham, Washington. The central location is convenient whether coming from Vancouver, B.C. or from the Seattle area.



The Firs campus offers both dorm-type and private bungalow lodging:

Great dining is essential to a successful retreat, and their executive chef turns meal time into a dining experience where pleasing menus are served family-style, in a casual, friendly atmosphere. We'll have the option of eating outdoors for at least one meal.

Need to unwind? Wander down to the beach area on Lake Whatcom. Water-front activities during the summer months include swimming, water skiing, paddle boats, and sea kayaks. If you prefer to be on land, start up a game of

volleyball, baseball, soccer or basketball.

Just up the street is a mountain hiking/biking trailhead, and many more are a short drive away.

The Firs, 4605 Cable St.  
(800) 765-3477



## BELLINGHAM

Perched on the hills overlooking Bellingham Bay with Mt. Baker as its backdrop, Bellingham is the last major city before the Washington coastline meets the Canadian border. Bellingham is 85 miles north of Seattle, 50 miles south of Vancouver, B.C., and near North Cascades National Park. Ferries connect the community to the nearby San Juan Islands and Victoria on Vancouver Island.



Bellingham has an active waterfront

port that supports fishing, boat building, shipping and marina operations.

Squalicum Harbor is the second largest in Puget Sound, with 1,900 pleasure and commercial boats moored. From Bellingham's ports, passenger ferries leave for whale watch cruises, tours to Victoria on Vancouver Island and cruises to the San Juan Islands.

The downtown area has a mixture of restaurants, art galleries and specialty shops, and an award-winning brewery. The cultural district includes the respected Whatcom Museum of History and Art. Originally built in 1892 as city hall, the museum's imposing brick build-

ing is the centerpiece of a four-building campus, including a children's museum.

Visitors bound for Alaska depart on the Alaska Marine Highway System ferries from the Bellingham Cruise Terminal in



the Historic Fairhaven District. Here you can find shops offering hand-crafted products, local

restaurants that serve fresh seafood plus art galleries featuring Northwest artisans. Stroll along the gorgeous miles-long seawalk.

## GETTING HERE

**Fly to Bellingham** (Recommended): We'll pick you up at the airport (BLI). Greyhound and Amtrak stop here, too.

**Fly To Seattle:**  
Rent a car (2 hr drive), or take the Airport Shuttle from Sea-Tac airport in Seattle to Bellingham (\$70 RT vs. a connecting flight to Bellingham: \$110 RT). They run hourly, but best to call (866)235-5247 for a reservation. You are going to the VAL-U INN in Belling-

ham. We'll pick you up from there.

**Fly To Vancouver:**  
Airfare is usually more expensive. If you plan on visiting Vancouver, consider renting a car in Bellingham (1-1/4 hour drive + border delays). Otherwise, there are 3 shuttle options:

Amtrak (Near airport & downtown: \$13 one way): We'll pick you up at the Bellingham train station.

Greyhound ([downtown to downtown](#)), or QuickShuttle ([airport to airport](#)). Both are \$17-\$23 one way. We'll pick you up here at the bus stop.

**Drive:**  
We'll send you complete driving instructions to the Center at 4605 Cable St. Tel: (800) 765-3477

Indicate your arrival schedule on your registration, or if you don't know it yet, send us the info as soon as you do.

Complete both forms  
(all 3 if requesting scholarship)  
One form per person over 12 y.o.

Mail with  
payment  
to: Beth Beyers, Registrar  
1007 Austin St.  
Bellingham, WA 98229

Or, if paying by credit card, or sending  
a scholarship application, you  
can fax to: (775) 667-8671

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	
Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon Registration (3 nights and all meals, Friday dinner through Monday lunch)	
<b>DORM</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180 - Early Bird (before Mar 31) <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 - Regular (before April 25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$220 - Late (before May 15) Bunkbeds: 8 beds per room, linens & towels, shared bath facilities \$
<b>SEMI PRIVATE &amp; FAMILY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$230 - Early Bird (before Mar 31) <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - Regular (before April 25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$270 - Late (before May 15) Two beds, linens & towel, pvt. bath. Families have up to 5 beds. \$
<b>PRIVATE ROOMS</b>	Sharing with (adult's name): _____ CHILDREN: No. children _____ # _____ Aged 4-12 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$280 - Early Bird (before Mar 31) <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 - Regular (before April 25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$320 - Late (before May 15) Same as Semi-pvt, but single occupancy \$
<b>BONUS DAY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - DORM <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 - SEMI-PRIVATE & FAM. <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 - PRIVATE (same choice as above 3 nights) Arrive Thurs afternoon. Community-building dinner and evening. Br & Lunch, Committe meetings or free time Friday. Children to age 12 free. \$
<b>SINGLE NIGHT REG.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs dinner, Fri br & lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Sat dinner, Sun br & lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Fri dinner, Sat br & lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Sun dinner, Mon br & lunch DORM ONLY Thurs: \$50 Fri, Sat, Sun: \$85 each \$
<b>DAY COMMUTER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Sun \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Mon \$30 Includes all meals \$
<b>T-SHIRT</b>	Conf. t-shirt \$18@: # _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ \$
<b>DONATE</b>	<b>My Donation for Scholarships:</b> \$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b> \$
<b>AMT of PAYMENT</b>	(if paying for others, staple all registrations together) <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Exp. Date ____/____/____ Card Number: _____ Name on card: _____ Signature: _____ Scholarship applicants: See instructions Checks to: AVP/USA

**REGISTRATION DATA**

Name tag Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adjective Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell (if bringing): ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & Phone of emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Diet:  Diabetic  Low Sodium  Vegetarian  Vegan  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Accessible Room  Sensory Needs  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plane  Train  Shuttle Bus  Car Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Arr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM**

Get Local Chapter sponsorship and their contribution amount.  
 Then, mail us entire registration form ASAP. Reg. amt. is based on mailing date  
 Don't send \$ until your scholarship is approved.

Sponsoring Local Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ex-Prisoner  First-Time Attendee  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AVP Committee member? \_\_\_\_\_  
 AVP Experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for Requesting Scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Transport \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
 I can pay: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ My Chapter can pay: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \$  
 Remainder: amount of scholarship request \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Registrar use only:** Date Chapter contribution received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Amount Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Approved: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

## BONUS DAY

Thursday aft. to Friday aft. is a bonus (pre-conference) opportunity to come early and sightsee, boat, hike, see the orcas, and just have fun. Need to be productive? The AVP/USA Committees will meet during these times. Come, join us and get in on the action.

**FORMS:** Please complete one registration form per person over 12 yrs. (Younger are half price). If paying for other registrations in addition to your own, staple them together and indicate whom you are paying for on your form. Payment in full is required at the time of your registration (except scholarship applicants).

Mail or Fax all forms and payment to:

Beth Beyers, Registrar  
1007 Austin St.  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
littleminstrels@juno.com  
(360) 752-5776 or Fax: (775) 667-8671

Attach check, money order, or credit card information.

**On-line Registration** (no scholarships): You can register and pay by credit card on our website:  
<http://www.avpusa.org/annual08.htm>.

## A CALL FOR FACILITATORS

We've got the site. We've got the theme. What else would anyone want?

Oh, yeah: we need YOU. We need your ideas and sharing to make the conference work. Your insights and experiences are the heart of an AVP National Gathering. Come and be a part of a great conference, and especially, come and help facilitate a workshop or moderate a dialogue.

Click on the REGISTRATION tab.

**REFUND POLICY:** After a registration is paid for, if the Registrar is notified:

Before April 1: Full Refund  
Before May 15: Full minus 15%  
After May 15: No refunds

**REGISTRATION TRANSFERS:** If you cannot attend, you may transfer your registration to another (no charge). The Registrar must be notified prior to May 15.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Money is scarce this year. Please ask for the minimum you need. Apply as soon as possible (in no case after **April 25, 2008**), as scholarships are available on a first-come-first-served basis, and your registration is not final until approved. A scholarship registration covers the amount for dorm rate - early bird registration. Scholarship registrants who register later, or for a Semi-Private or Private room must pay the difference (amount over dorm rate - early bird registration) in effect on registration mailing date.

Former Prisoners qualify for full registration scholarships. Provide any probation or parole restrictions, conditions or limitations.

Although a limited amount of partial assistance on travel may be possible, we're hoping that Local Chapters can help with your travel costs.

Create a 1 to 3 hour (or more) experiential workshop to be offered by your team of facilitators for other facilitators.

- The topic is yours. What challenges you? What worked really well? What ideas/experiences would be stimulating for us to share? It can be part of the theme (The Future of....), or ?? What is of compelling interest to you will make a good workshop and is at

Steps:

First, get endorsement from your Local Chapter, including the amount of support they can give you. Use that information to complete your scholarship application.

Fill out the registration and scholarship forms and mail them in. Do it SOON (see above). Early-Bird registration (cheapest) ends on March 31.

The Scholarship Committee will review your application and we'll notify you of the scholarship amount we're able to provide. Do not send money with your application. You will owe any difference, due by **May 7**.

If your scholarship includes transportation costs, we'll reimburse you at the Gathering.

## HELP!!

Scholarships are tight this year. We need your help getting our Ex-Prisoners and First-time Attendees to the Gathering:

If you (or your Chapter) care to make a tax-deductible contribution to AVP/USA for helping others defray their costs for the conference, please indicate the amount and include it with your registration.

the heart of a wonderful Annual Gathering.

- These breakout sessions are workshops. We encourage modeling them exactly as any other AVP workshop: teams, participatory methods, L&L's, etc.

Send your ideas to: **Jan Krouskop**  
720 Sudden Valley, Bellingham WA 98229  
(360) 527-3545 Fax: (775) 667-8671  
[Jan@Krouskop.net](mailto:Jan@Krouskop.net)



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